GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 7 OF 1942.

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Morning Papers .. 1st August, 1942.
Evening Papers .. 1st August, 1942.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1942.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for June Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 1020, Toowoomba 1026, Rockhampton 1023, Townsville 1069, Bundaberg 1007, Charters Towers 1042 and Warwick 1000.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City.	December Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with		
	Year Ended June, 1939.	June Quarter 1941.	March Quarter 1942.
Brisbane	18.19	6.92	0.89
Toowoomba	20.56	8.80	1.79
Rockhampton ..	18.82	7.35	0.59
Townsville	17.21	7.44	1.81
Bundaberg	19.74	8.16	1.41
Charters Towers ..	21.16	7.98	2.36
Warwick	21.65	8.34	1.94

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June 1939.	Percentage Increase on March Qr. 1942.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June 1939	Percentage Increase on March Qr. 1942	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June 1939	Percentage Increase on March Qr. 1942
Brisbane ..	11.92	- 1.14	52.59	4.29	11.88	0.38
Toowoomba..	16.71	0.53	53.92	5.11	12.41	0.91
Rockhampton	10.50	- 1.30	53.73	3.59	13.96	0.27
Townsville	10.26	2.33	53.33	3.70	11.84	0.27
Bundaberg..	13.73	0.98	53.16	4.22	11.40	0.18
Ch. Towers	9.82	2.44	50.59	5.09	11.78	0.64
Warwick ..	13.71	1.26	49.65	4.61	14.57	1.23

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for June Quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were - Brisbane 918, Toowoomba 912, Rockhampton 900, Townsville 977, Bundaberg 878, Charters Towers 889 and Warwick 855.

From March Quarter, 1942 to June Quarter, 1942 this index fell in Brisbane (0.76%) and Rockhampton (0.77%) but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Toowoomba 0.33, Townsville 1.45, Bundaberg 0.46, Charters Towers 1.83 and Warwick 0.71.

The Food and Grocery Index also showed a decline in Brisbane (1.14%) and Rockhampton (1.30%) but rose in the other cities by the following percentage increases - Toowoomba 0.53, Townsville 2.33, Bundaberg 0.98, Charters Towers 2.44 and Warwick 1.26. The decrease in Brisbane was principally due to a fall in the price of beef and mutton. The decrease in Rockhampton was due to a fall in bread and potatoes and to a lesser extent to a drop in the price of beef and mutton.

Rents fell slightly in Townsville (0.12%) and Bundaberg (0.46%). There was no change in Warwick but the following percentage increases were shown by the other cities - Brisbane 0.12, Toowoomba 0.23, Rockhampton 0.26, Charters Towers 0.16.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.

31st July, 1942.

Compared with June Quarter, 1941 the combined Food and Rent Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 4.08, Toowoomba 9.09, Rockhampton 3.21, Townsville 5.39, Bundaberg 5.91, Charters Towers 6.85 and Warwick 4.78.

The Food and Groceries Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 6.56, Toowoomba 11.16, Rockhampton 7.03, Townsville 8.33, Bundaberg 7.88, Charters Towers 8.35 and Warwick 7.13.

The Rent Index showed increases in all towns with the exception of Rockhampton where there was a decline of 3.89%. The percentage increases were as follow - Brisbane 0.23, Toowoomba 4.76, Townsville 0.46, Bundaberg 1.56, Charters Towers 3.05 and Warwick 0.29.

The Rent Index also showed an increase in all cities when compared with the index for the year 1938-39, the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41, Toowoomba 2.51, Rockhampton 2.00, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 1.72, Charters Towers 23.98 and Warwick 6.92.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in June Quarter 1942 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 1	19.10	19.11	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 8	17. 9	1. 0. 6
Townsville ..	1. 1. 0	1. 2. 0	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 4
Bundaberg ..	19. 9	1. 1. 5	15. 2	1. 0. 4
Charters Towers ..	1. 0. 5	1. 1.11	14.11	1. 0. 3
Warwick ..	19. 7	1. 0. 1	16. 2	1. 0. 1

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities andStates. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£. s.d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1020	4.12. 0	4.12.0a	-	1023	4.12. 8	4.12. 8	-
N. S. W.	1096	4.18.10	4.15.0a	3.10	1094	4.19. 1	4.15. 0	4. 1
Victoria	1089	4.18. 3	4.14.0b	3. 3	1085	4.18. 3	4.13. 8	4. 7
South Aust.	1071	4.16. 7	4. 7.0a	9. 7	1065	4.16. 6	4. 7. 0	9. 6
West Aust.	1054	4.15. 1	4.10.5a	4. 8	1064	4.16. 5	4.11. 6	4.11
Tasmania	1063	4.16. 4	4.11.0b	5. 4	1051	4.15. 2	4. 9. 0	6. 2

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth basic wage, applicable from first pay period of August 1942. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending June 1942	QUARTERS ENDING June 1941	Sept. 1941	Dec. 1941	March 1942	June 1942
Brisbane ..	917	863	995	954	962	985	1011	1020
Toowoomba ..	906	851	990	943	952	972	1008	1026
Rockhampton ..	903	861	994	953	960	976	1017	1023
Townsville ..	1023	912	1037	995	1004	1025	1050	1069
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	975	931	940	960	993	1007
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	996	955	964	985	1013	1023
Charters Towers	925	860	1006	965	970	992	1018	1042
Warwick ..	914	822	963	923	928	943	981	1000

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending June 1942	QUARTERS ENDING June 1941	Sept. 1941	Dec. 1941	March. 1942	June 1942
Brisbane ..	901	852	904	882	876	895	925	918
Toowoomba ..	833	821	883	836	846	865	909	912
Rockhampton ..	858	837	882	872	853	866	907	900
Townsville ..	1047	916	950	927	921	937	963	977
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	855	829	827	842	874	878
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	902	879	874	892	923	919
Charters Towers..	942	783	857	832	823	844	873	889
Warwick ..	841	768	833	816	808	819	849	855

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towersand Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF March 1942	June 1942	Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF March 1942	June 1942
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.75	5.75	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	6.65	6.80
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	16.23	16.23
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	39.68	39.68	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.97	3.97	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	11.00	10.25
Jam (Plum).. 1½ lb.	8.02	9.07	9.68	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	11.73	11.77	Rump 1 lb.	11.34	14.90	14.05
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	21.86	17.18	Beef - Rolled			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.86	5.83	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.35	6.95
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.24	6.24	Mutton - leg 1 lb.	7.75	8.40	7.30
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	20.00	20.00	Mutton - chops			
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	14.64	14.95	Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.25	7.65
Eggs 1doz.	19.69	22.50	26.73	Pork - Leg 1 lb.	11.40	12.10	12.15